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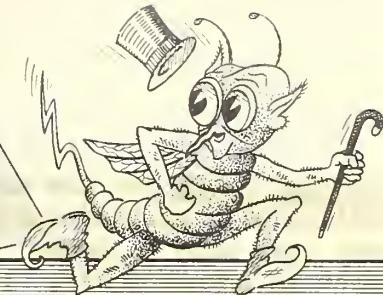
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SPRUCE BARK BEETLE NEWS



REGION ONE

Missoula, Montana

September 3, 1954

No. 9

PETITE EDITORIAL - A great many spruce bark beetles have come and gone since the NEWS of last December. Millions of board feet of prime spruce killed by the beetles have been logged, milled and marketed. Much spruce has been put to use that would have rotted into the ground had it not been for the spruce access roads and the research, survey, sales and logging effort of all concerned. There is ample evidence that the logging and the trap trees checked the beetle epidemic where they were applied. There is also evidence that the epidemic is spreading where they have not been applied. Therefore, it appears that the fine cooperative effort of industry, landowners and land managers is reaping a rich harvest. The important thing is to continue the effort with a full head of steam and unwavering faith and determination.

CLIFF SEES SPRUCE BEETLE CONTROL - Edward P. Cliff, Assistant Chief of the Forest Service, Branch of National Forest Administration, was in the region from August 26 to the end of the month. Axel Lindh and Jim Iler met him at Riggins. While here he visited infested spruce areas and saw spruce logging and some of the new access roads on the Clearwater, Coeur d'Alene, Lolo, Flathead and St. Joe Forests. Spruce areas in the South Fork of the Flathead River were viewed from the air. The August rains made car travel somewhat difficult and a thunderstorm complicated the airplane trip.

SCORE BOARD - INFESTED SPRUCE LOGGED

| OWNERSHIP | PRODUCTION YEAR | | 1954 (July 1, 1954 - August 31, 1954) Million Board Feet |
|----------------------|---|---|---|
| | 1952 (July 1, 1952 - June 30, 1953) Million Board Feet | 1953 (July 1, 1953 - June 30, 1954) Million Board Feet | |
| Clearwater | 0 | 1.2 | Trace |
| Coeur d'Alene | 1.7 | 2.0 | 0.5 |
| Colville | 0 | 0.3 | 0 |
| Flathead | 2.0 | 8.0 | 2.8 |
| Kaniksu | 6.3 | 19.9 | 2.7 |
| Kootenai | 57.4 | 48.6 | 12.5 |
| Lolo | 1.8 | 15.3 | 3.2 |
| St. Joe | 6.1 | 16.0 | 4.4 |
| Subtotal | 75.3 | 111.3 | 26.1 |
| All Other Ownerships | 19.9 | 48.1 | 11.4 |
| GRAND TOTALS | 95.2 | 159.4 | 37.5 |

FLATHEAD FACTS (By Ace Reporter, Melvin L. Yuhas) - The Flathead has the honor of selling all infested spruce sales offered this year. Almost 130 million board feet have been sold to date. About 300 million board feet of timber is now under contract in spruce sales. The next big job is to get the timber logged. Summer arrived one month late, fall arrived one month early and spruce types characteristically thrive in swamps anyway. As a result, logging has been exceedingly slow and difficult so far!

Spruce bark beetle detection surveys are now well under way. Approximately 90,000 acres of spruce type will be covered to determine the extent and intensity of the 1954 infestation. The survey effort for the forest is being coordinated by Mel Yuhas. District supervision is by Homer Powell, forester on the Glacier View District, by Carl Marsh, assistant ranger on the Tally Lake District, by John Brinkenhoff, assistant ranger at Coram for Coram and Spotted Bear Districts, Harry McCarty, assistant ranger at Condon for the Condon and Swan Districts, and Oliver Meyer, ranger for the Big Prairie District.

Bud Daugherty, Flathead timber management staff assistant, has been assigned to supervise the removal of trap trees that were dropped last fall and spring. Looks like a big job with some knotty problems.

Recent changes in Flathead personnel involved in the beetle program were numerous. In July Bert Morris transferred from the Clearwater and replaced Mel Yuhas as assistant ranger. Walter Glendinning accepted a previously offered appointment in Region Six, and was replaced by Roger Bay. Homer Powell transferred in from Plains. Bob Gillespie transferred from the Kootenai, replacing Dale Arnold, Glacier View District ranger. Dale recently accepted a conservation fellowship at Harvard.

KANIKSU REPORTS - The Sandpoint District has ten advertised spruce sales in operation at present. Two of them were advertised and sold this year. These sales range in total volumes from 700 M to 12,000 M. The Sandpoint District's largest sale, Pack River on Snow Creek is not producing to capacity as the company is logging heaviest in the adjacent drainage of Myrtle Creek. Three scalers on the district, Art Kalk, Jim Risley and Jim Craig, have approached or exceeded a half a million board feet volume for one week's scaling. East Fork of Boulder Creek was cruised in June by Floyd Cowles, Aubrey Arthurs, Jim Craig, Milton Koppang and Jim Risley. The scattered stands of spruce were heavily infested. Trees down to four inches DBH were killed. One might even suspect the SBB pests to almost have attacked the seeds. The volume of infested merchantable spruce in the drainage was insufficient to warrant logging or control measures. It is believed that all the merchantable infested spruce of the district has been sold.

Ranger Meneely reports that he has been working on spruce sales so long that the beetles think him a spruce tree. He has been attacked by the critters on numerous occasions while inspecting sales. As yet the beetles have not penetrated his cambium. (Steno wonders if this means his hard hat.). -- Submitted by Floyd Cowles.

The Priest Lake Ranger District reports that on the Boulder-Beaver sale, two contract dozers and a ten-man brush crew headed up by John "Snick" Sudnikovich are disposing of spruce slash and scrubby alpine fir. Snags are being dropped and pushed into the slash piles to aid in burning. With over 3 inches of rainfall on the area, fingers at Priest Lake are crossed in hopes of a good Indian Summer for a successful burn.

ADDITIONS TO FAMILY OF SPRUCE BARK BEETLE FORESTS - The Nezperce Forest reports that from July 27 to 30, J. W. Johnson and A. O. Nousianen found spruce bark beetles at work near the head of Fire Creek and Old Man Lake. All areas visited in this vicinity had considerable 1949 blowdown and all spruce areas were hit hard by the beetles. Some 300 acres of spruce appeared to be about 70 percent killed or currently infested.

There are also reports from the Lewis and Clark of spruce bark beetles doing their dirty work in the Sun River country.

Gary P. Wetzsteon and Bud Krieg are diligently making detection surveys of spruce stands on the Philipsburg and Anaconda Districts of the Deerlodge Forest to pin down the location of possible epidemic beetle activity.

It begins to look like the present eight spruce bark beetle forests may grow to ten or more. For the benefit of those who came in late, elimination of the Cabinet and shifting the Sullivan Lake District of the Kaniksu to the Colville makes eight spruce bark beetle forests (instead of the original seven) as follows: Clearwater, Coeur d'Alene, Colville, Flathead, Kaniksu, Kootenai, Lolo and St. Joe.

SCORE BOARD -- SPRUCE SALES PROGRAM

(Based on Program of February 19, 1954 and sold to August 31, 1954)

| National Forest | Number of Sales | | Volume Programed and Volume Sold | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|------|----------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| | Programed | Sold | Spruce | | All species in spruce sales | |
| | | | Programed | Sold | M Bd. Ft. | M Bd. Ft. |
| Clearwater | 2 | 1 | 30,000 | 10,000 | 76,849 | 37,460 |
| Coeur d'Alene | 4 | 2 | 20,700 | 4,300 | 23,980 | 18,045 |
| Colville | 2 | - | 5,000 | - | 6,715 | - |
| Flathead | 16 | 14 | 120,000 | 85,990 | 137,100 | 113,450 |
| Kaniksu | 12 | 9 | 62,250 | 42,550 | 93,800 | 115,735 |
| Kootenai | 37 | 30 | 221,710 | 164,093 | 238,450 | 218,403 |
| Lolo | 11 | 6 | 60,485 | 44,725 | 162,091 | 60,810 |
| St. Joe | 4 | 2 | 53,000 | 17,800 | 83,730 | 45,100 |
| TOTALS | 88 | 64 | 573,145 | 369,458 | 822,715 | 609,003 |

Prior to the period covered by the above tabulation, 565 and 998 million board feet of spruce and all species respectively were sold in infested spruce sales. Therefore, almost a billion board feet of spruce has been put under sale contracts on the national forests since the control-by-logging program began.

LATEST ON SEASONAL HISTORY OF THE ENGELMANN SPRUCE BEETLE - Jim Evenden, in charge of the Coeur d'Alene Research Center, states that since the discovery of the Engelmann spruce beetle infestation in 1952 there has been confusion concerning the seasonal history of this insect: first, a 2-year life cycle to conform with conditions in Colorado, then a 1-year life cycle for this region, and then a compromise between 1 and 2-year cycles. Unfortunately preliminary information to the effect that differences in elevation had a marked influence upon the seasonal history of this insect has been interpreted too literally. No such rule governing elevations as determining life cycles can be adopted, as both 1 and 2-year cycles are found in the same area, in trees side by side, and some workers state that there is both a 1 and 2-year cycle in the same tree. Perhaps this confusion will be clarified somewhat if it is understood that each seasonal history event in bark beetle development, for example, from egg to larvae, larvae to pupae, and pupae to new adults, requires a definite number of hours of activity temperature. These conditions start somewhere around 50 degrees and increase in their importance up to an optimum developmental temperature and then decrease rapidly in their effectiveness. As a result the difference between May 15 and July 15 attacks, the late falls of 1952 and 1953, and the low temperatures recently experienced during August have all had a direct influence upon the development of this beetle. Obviously elevations, as they effect the number of developmental hours of temperature, have a direct influence, but they cannot be taken as indicated seasonal history of this insect. Furthermore, examinations of infestations within an area must be carefully and thoroughly made before any decision as to the preponderance of a 1 or 2-year cycle can be made.

SPRUCE BEETLE SURVEYS NOW UNDERWAY - The Coeur d'Alene Research Center has had five three-man Engelmann spruce beetle survey crews in the field since August 9. The first week of this period was spent on intensive training at the Troy Ranger Station where Ranger Bob Smart's cooperation was greatly appreciated. Three of these crews are working on the Flathead and Kootenai Forests under the general supervision of Galen Trostle. Dave McComb has one crew that is making intensive surveys of a number of trap tree areas to obtain information as to the benefits derived from trap tree control. Mr. Terrell is giving general supervision to one crew working in the Lochsa District of the Lolo Forest and is also making necessary aerial surveys.

During the season, aerial surveys have been made of portions of the Lolo, Flathead, Kootenai, Kaniksu and Colville National Forests. Additional surveys are scheduled for newly discovered spruce beetle infestations on the Lewis and Clark National Forest. While flying over areas on the Colville National Forest adjacent to the International Boundary, spruce beetle infestations were observed within the Canadian spruce forests.

WOODPECKERS PECK A PECK OF BEETLES - Woodpeckers, those little birds with the hard heads and tremendous appetites for bark beetles, contributed a splendid service in the control of the Engelmann spruce beetle during the past winter according to Jim Evenden, head of the Coeur d'Alene Research Center. This service is one of the natural factors of bark beetle control that during normal conditions assist in holding bark beetle populations at low levels. Except where the overwintering broods were protected by thick bark at the base of trees, or by the deep snow, these active forestry aids performed their effective control activities. Fortunately the benefits derived from woodpecker activity are two fold. Not only do they consume large numbers of beetles in all stages of their development, but the insects that are not eaten are often killed from the semi-exposure under the worked-over bark.

WOODPECKERS PECK A PECK OF BEETLES (Continued) - Mr. Evenden reports that during the past winter studies were conducted to obtain information concerning the benefits derived from woodpecker activity. Portions of standing trees were protected from woodpeckers by wire screens. Examination of both the protected and unprotected portions of these trees were made this spring, and although these data have not been summarized, they indicate a marked reduction of the Engelmann spruce beetle broods as a result of woodpecker work.

LOLO ITEMS (By Wes Green) - All Lolo sales advertised have been sold so far. Sales sold this year are Graves Creek, Upper Powell, Cedar Creek, West Fork Butte, Bear Camp and Four Lakes Creek for a total of 74 Million board feet. Other sales totaling about 12 million board feet are being advertised or prepared for sale this fall in addition to the 75 million board feet sale in Lower Powell area which is advertised to sell September 20.

Bill Talifiaferro and crew are finishing the operational survey of epidemic infestation in Spruce Creek and Brushy Fork after completing earlier the survey of Walton Creek in the Wilderness Area. Slim Gordon reports the Osberg Construction Company job to be 50 percent completed on the Papoose Creek access road and the Tangmo Construction Company job to be 50 percent completed on the Squaw Creek road and 25 percent on the Crooked Fork road. The Thompson Falls Lumber Company has built its Haskell Creek road into the Crooked Fork country and is moving out Northern Pacific logs to the railroad at Lolo. The Tree Farmers have started their Brushy Fork road and have built about 2 miles of their Rig Basin Road. The Anaconda Copper Mining Company road into Granite Creek is about completed and ready for hauling. The Northern Pacific is also making major efforts on beetle control in the Lolo Creek and Seeley Lake areas.

The strike of mill workers in Missoula practically halted spruce production for a while and woods operations are just now getting under way again. Nobody has yet calculated the impact this action will incur upon the execution of control plans. At any rate, things are probably 3 weeks behind schedule.

SCORE BOARD - SPRUCE ACCESS ROAD CONSTRUCTION

(Federal Funds and Cooperation - Does not include roads constructed by sale operators)

| National Forest | Total Program miles | Completed Projects miles | Progress Based on Cost of Completed Work on all Projects weighted percent of completion |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Clearwater | 20.1 | 11.6 | 60 |
| Coeur d'Alene | 18.1 | 13.8 | 77 |
| Flathead | 101.0 | 79.8 | 94 |
| Kaniksu | 70.8 | 33.9 | 66 |
| Kootenai | 125.7 | 86.0 | 88 |
| Lolo | 64.2 | 38.0 | 63 |
| St. Joe | <u>25.6</u> | <u>25.6</u> | <u>100</u> |
| GRAND TOTALS | 425.5 | 288.7 | 78 |

1/ 95 percent or more completed.

CLEARWATER CREW UNDER SNOW IN AUGUST (By Special Correspondent Don Moore) - Lately Walt Smith, Tony Dorrell, and crew have been buried in a pack camp on Osier Creek doing operation surveys. Three inches of rain has added to their difficulties. They had some consolation, however, when they heard that Bringman, Enders and Belveal on detection survey in Gravey Creek scarcely got their tent up in Saddle Camp on the Lolo Trail when they were covered with a blanket of snow.

Trap trees felled last November in the Quartz Creek Compartment were examined this August. They were found very heavily laden with spruce bark beetles. As many as 24 entrances per square foot were counted. Numerous standing green spruce trees nearby were examined and the percentage of 1954 infestation was decidedly low. We feel confident that the trap tree job here was well worth the effort. The planned survey this fall will give us better information on this.

We wish to issue a word of warning to Cramer, Evenden and Scott if they plan to visit the Clearwater. Maybe three inches of rain did wash away some of the boring dust but our trap trees are still loaded.

The Cold Springs spruce access road which taps the Quartz Creek Compartment is progressing nicely despite the late spring and recent rain. We hope to utilize this road in our beetle survey and trap tree program this fall. The Musselshell Lumber Company who purchased the timber in this spruce sale are scurrying around in preparation for setting up a sawmill at Cold Springs. Ranger Del Cox is wrestling with the details of special use permits for them.

Heretofore, the Division of Engineering has had a corner on treated timber bridges. However, on the Clearwater late last fall during the process of removing trap trees and other infested spruce a native timber bridge was built across Goose Creek. Quite handily, trap trees were available for stringers. Our chemical crew conscientiously sprayed these stringers. We believe that this is the first bridge in the region having timbers treated with Ethylene dibromide. Anyway, during the fumigation Hibbard and Tower's loggers gave us a queer look, as though we had lost our marbles.

SPRUCE BARK BEETLES AND FIRE CONTROL - Lolo and Powell Districts of the Lolo were visited by Iler and Stoltz on August 16. Stoltz is now inspecting slash disposal for the Division of Fire Control. He reports that good progress is being made in reducing fire hazards from clearing operations along spruce access roads. He also noted progress in protecting streams along the new roads. Coordinated treatment of logging slash and seedbed preparation was also observed. He found dozers treating slash and preparing seedbed just a few days after the logs were skidded. Why? In order to catch the seed crop. How? By zigzagging to cover the easiest going. About 50 percent of the cutover area was within range of an adequate seed source. His parting suggestion, "Don't prepare a potato patch".

AN ITEM FROM THE KOOTENAI - Elmer Frame, of the Bureau of Public Roads, Resident Engineer on the construction of the Therriault Lakes road in the Wigwam Creek drainage recently announced that the job is now 75 percent completed. Miller & Strong, construction contractors of Portland, Oregon, are pushing construction to meet the September 1 completion deadline. The road is to play an important part in the control of the Engelmann spruce bark beetle on the Fortine District. The road will tap a drainage containing approximately 82 million board feet of spruce.

MODEST REPORT FROM LITTLE OL' KOOTENAI - According to news sent in by Ernie Grambo the Kootenai blushingly allows that they "can produce the largest and smallest, tallest and shortest, buggiest and greenest, best or worst of any article or substance, animate or inanimate to be found in Region One. Modest or immodest....". (Please note end of quote.) This statement accompanied their claim to have run the longest bug strip run. Termini, Sunday Creek to Stryker road. Running Time, one and one-half days and one night. Stripper, an unidentified - modest? - member of Galen Trostle's ratio survey crew which has been checking on the effectiveness of the trap trees. Because Trostle is one of Jim Evenden's henchmen perhaps the above small claim should be shared with the Coeur d'Alene insect research depot.

Merrill Cakes reports that Russ Cloninger, Fortine district ranger, has started initial construction on a camp for a crew to treat trap trees on Wigwam Creek. He had to have his little joke too. "Weather permitting," he says, "treating should get underway next week." Evidently this is the Kootenai dry way of saying that they have been getting some of their wettest rain to match their driest humor.

Al Young's ratio survey crew on August 19 started to perk in Hawkins Creek and the Upper West Fork of the Yaak. At last report they were in hibernation at Pete Creek cabin waiting out the monsoon - biggest and wettest in all of Region One, no doubt.

Sometime in August Doug Sheffler and Dean Upp were marking spruce on the Halverson Creek portion of the J. Neils' Keeler Creek sale. They got quite aways apart on their strips. A bear got between them. Each man thought the bear was the other fellow. Both markers learned the truth and the bear went on about his business. (Editor's note: Oh, shucks! Why did we tell them to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth?)

Under the supervision of Logging Superintendent, Mark Schoknecht, the J. Neils Lumber Company have built seven miles of spur road in Upper Pinkham Creek and have logged four million feet of spruce during July and August.

Road Locator Joe Sieminski was treed by three bull moose. Donald Brock caught a limit of brook trout at the Camp Tuffit trout pond. Jack Parrish is in charge of road intersections on the West Subdivision. Traffic lights should be in working order by September 1.

Under the supervision of Forester Ray Karr, the Kootenai Lumber Company reconstructed six miles of the Red Mountain Road and are installing culverts furnished by the Forest Service. The company has three sawmills on the Dodge Creek sale area sawing cants. This report is from the Rexford District.

Despite the late spring and the unseasonable August rains, loggers on the Fortine District of the Kootenai have logged over 5 million board feet of spruce to date this year. Approximately half of this volume has been hauled over three new spruce access roads constructed in the past twelve months.

With a record August rainfall hampering logging operations, local timber operators are still chalking up many beetle miles per day in their attempt to thwart the spruce bark beetle epidemic.

DEGRADE STUDY PROGRESSES - The study of degrade in insect killed spruce which is a cooperative undertaking of the J. Neils Company, the Forest Utilization Service of the Missoula Research Center and the Division of Timber Management is moving along, according to Clarence Brown who has been representing Timber Management. Logs from half of one lot of spruce trees killed in 1952 were logged in 1953 and decked over winter. These logs were sawed in the J. Neils mill in July and grade recovery was recorded. The other half of the same lot of trees was logged in August this year and will be run through the mill in September. A full report on this phase of the study should be ready by October. Preliminary indications are that grade recovery has held up better than expected in these beetle-killed spruce logs. The select grades go fast but logs containing the higher commons hold up very well. The principal causes of degrade in the decked logs sawed in July were checks and dry rot.

ST. JOE TIDBIT - Floyd Curtis, who is a veteran of the Colorado spruce bark beetle campaign, sent in the information that in one month, from July 25 to August 25 of this year, Potlatch Forests, Inc. logged 4,696,780 and Russell and Pugh logged 1,850,000 board feet from lands of all ownerships in the Round Top Ranger District. About 85 percent was spruce.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT GIRLS TAKE SHOW-ME TRIP NUMBER TWO - On August 5, Clarence Brown loaded all of the Timber Management girls--Nora, Helen, Marie, Esther and Louise--in a car. Then he headed for the tall timber. It was very quiet in the Timber Management office. You could almost hear yourself think or take a nap, but that is another story. The girls went to Superior, through the new Diamond Match sawmill, learned a lot about Forest Service work, rode over the new logging road to the Cedars on the Clearwater Forest, saw logging, had a wonderful time and returned to Missoula safe and sound. They also ate a lunch that they toted along themselves.

On that lunch toting hangs a story that should be told. When the Timber Management girls took the super deluxe spruce bark beetle show-me trip number one last year with Dave Scott the SPRUCE BARK BEETLE NEWS reported that they were treated to a sumptuous lunch at the cook house at the Powell Ranger Station. The ink was still wet on the NEWS when the phone rang in Tli and Fiscal Control wanted to know who paid for the said lunches at a Government camp. Well, to cut a long story short, the treat was taken care of legally and to everyone's satisfaction but the girls toted their own lunch on show-me trip number two.

SAD STORY FROM THE LOLO - On a somber brooding day during the recent rainy spell, a bug surveyor built a small warming fire at lunch time. To keep it going he pulled a piece of bark off the snag he was leaning against. As he contemplated the reluctant smudge a cold draught blew on the back of his neck and he turned to see a bat moving and stretching where it had been uncovered. The surveyor shook with revulsion and moved away. Warmed by the fire the bat attempted flight and darted into the flames where it writhed and screeched in its death agonies. Only by supreme effort of will did the surveyor prevent himself from running and screaming off through the wet brush.

COLVILIE NEWS - Rains on August 16-17 found detection survey training underway on the Sullivan Lake Ranger District by Floyd Cory and Tom Finch. On the crew were Bob Cochran, Indiana; Larry Weinmann, Idaho; Bob Grapp, Wisconsin; and George Lunden, Washington. George Lunden kept the crew going to get the job done before all the boring dust had washed away. Also all of George's crew had to leave for school on the 28th of August. George and Tom expect to complete the detection surveys early in September and begin spraying trap trees.